

What is claimed is:

1. A method for correcting digitized image data in the prepress stage when using printing presses having a device-independent color profile in the main printing stage, the method comprising the steps of:
  - measuring colorimetrically a reference sheet and producing a first image file in a device-independent color space;
  - converting a second image file associated with the reference sheet in a device-dependent color space into a third image file in a device-independent color space using a device-independent color profile belonging to the printing press to be used;
  - comparing the first and third image files; and
  - performing alterations on the second image file associated with the reference sheet or altering a printing process in the printing press to be used if tolerance limits are exceeded.
2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein consumable materials used in the printing press selected are changed to alter the printing process.
3. The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the materials include paper or ink.
4. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the device-independent color profile of the printing press is an ICC profile.
5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein measuring step includes colorimetrically measuring the reference sheet at multiple points in a uniform raster using an automatic spectrophotometer.
6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein one of the first device-independent image files exists in a Lab image file format.

7. The method as recited in claim 6 wherein multiple pixels of the reference sheet are combined into a measured value during the colorimetric measurement and this measured value is compared to the likewise combined values of the third device-independent image file.
8. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising sorting out measured values obtained using the colorimetric measurement and having a color difference with respect to an average value formed from the surrounding measured values exceeding a fixed limit.
9. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein, if the tolerance limits are exceeded, correction values are calculated and a mapping specification for converting the first and third image files into one another is calculated therefrom.
10. The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the mapping specification is taken into consideration in the color profile of the printing press.
11. A device for performing the method as recited in claim 1.